

ALLIANCE OF GSP COUNTRIES

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Grassley and Neal and Ranking Members Wyden and Brady,

We write to you as The Alliance of GSP Countries (Alliance), comprised of 27 developing and least developed countries¹ with representation in Washington, D.C. We are committed to further enhancing U.S. trade and investments between our countries and the United States of America through the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. Each of our countries, for many years, have benefitted from the duty-free market access treatment our exports receive under the U.S. GSP program.

The current GSP program will expire on December 31, 2020. We ask your support, as leaders of the committees of jurisdiction for the GSP program, for the timely renewal of this important program. Renewing GSP before its expiration will provide certainty to those that use the program, including small producers in our countries, the small and medium-size U.S. businesses that depend on these products, and U.S. consumers that benefit from more choices and lower cost of products provided by GSP beneficiary countries.

¹ GSP Alliance countries are Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Georgia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Macedonia, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, the Philippines, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Yemen.

The importance of the GSP program to our countries cannot be underestimated. GSP benefits more than 3.8 billion people living in two-thirds of the world's economies. We rely on GSP to export many products duty-free into the United States, helping to facilitate the development and uplifting the lives of our most vulnerable enterprises, communities, and workers. We wish to underscore that in 2019, an estimated \$20.6 billion of products entered the United States under GSP, representing less than 1% percent of total U.S. imports of \$2.50 trillion.

GSP supports the U.S. economy by generating tens of thousands of direct jobs. Small- and medium-sized enterprises, in particular, both U.S. manufacturers and importers, are able to obtain raw materials, semi-manufactured inputs, and consumer goods at a lower cost, while allowing them to diversify supplier sources to limit vulnerability and ensure economic stability for their businesses.

As sources of imports in the U.S. shifted during 2019 as a result of additional import tariffs applied to some countries, GSP beneficiaries have proven to be a reliable supply of goods for U.S. SMEs. GSP has helped small manufacturers improve production technology and compliance to international standards, improve labor requirements in our countries, and the protection of intellectual property rights.

We believe the GSP program is a win-win for the United States and our countries. As we continue to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis it has wrought, this is the time for the whole world to support each other as we all try to stay afloat. The prompt renewal of GSP will certainly help support economic recovery both in the United States and our countries.

We appreciate your support for GSP now and over the 40-year history of the program.

Sincerely,



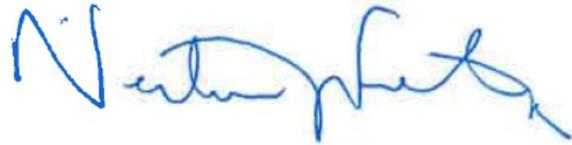
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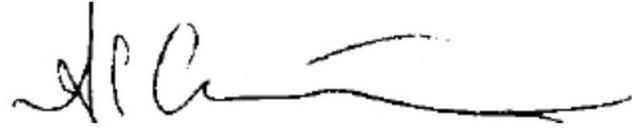
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